

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for reducing vehicle idle time, comprising the steps of:
2 detecting whether there is an occupant in the vehicle; and
3 disabling a timer that generates a signal to shut off an engine of the vehicle if
4 an occupant is detected in the vehicle.

1 2. The method of Claim 1, further including the steps of:
2 detecting that the vehicle is unoccupied; and
3 enabling the timer responsive to detection that the vehicle is unoccupied if the
4 timer is disabled.

1 3. The method of Claim 1, further including the steps of:
2 detecting an opening of a door of the vehicle; and
3 enabling the timer responsive to detection of opening of the door of the
4 vehicle if the timer is disabled.

1 4. A system for reducing idling time of a vehicle, comprising:
2 override circuitry for providing an indication of an occupant in the vehicle;
3 and
4 a controller responsive to the indication from the override circuitry for
5 disabling a timer module for generating a signal that stops an engine of the vehicle.

1 5. The system of Claim 4, wherein the override circuitry further provides a
2 second indicator that the vehicle is unoccupied.

1 6. The system of Claim 5, wherein the controller further enables the timer
2 module responsive to the second indicator if the timer module is disabled.

1 7. The system of Claim 4, wherein the override circuitry further comprises at
2 least one of an infrared device, an imaging sensor, a radar sensor, a fingerprint scanner, a
3 retinal scanner, a weight sensor, a pressure switch, a video system, a palm print scanner, a
4 laser system, a Pulse On system, a motion detector, or a switch.

1 8. The system of Claim 4, further including:
2 circuitry for detecting an opening of a door of the vehicle; and
3 wherein said controller further enables said timer module responsive to
4 detection of opening of the door of the vehicle if the time module is disabled.

1 9. A vehicle comprising;
2 an engine; and
3 a system for controlling an idling time of said engine, said system further
4 comprising:
5 a timer module for timing a predetermined time period responsive to at
6 least one input indicating the vehicle has stopped for activating and upon expiration
7 of the predetermined time period for generating a signal for stopping the engine of the
8 vehicle;
9 override circuitry for providing an indication of an occupant in the
10 vehicle; and
11 a controller responsive to the indication from the override circuitry for
12 disabling the timer module.

1 10. The system of Claim 9, wherein the override circuitry further provides a
2 second indicator that the vehicle is unoccupied.

1 11. The system of Claim 10, wherein the controller further enables the timer
2 module responsive to the second indicator if the timer module is disabled.

1 12. The vehicle of Claim 9, wherein the override circuitry further comprises at
2 least one of an infrared device, an imaging sensor, a radar sensor, a fingerprint scanner, a
3 retinal scanner, a weight sensor, a pressure switch, a video system, a palm print scanner, a
4 laser system, a Pulse On system, a motion detector, or a switch.

1 13. The vehicle of Claim 10, further including:
2 circuitry for detecting an opening of a door of the vehicle; and
3 wherein said controller further enables said timer module responsive to
4 detection of opening of the door of the vehicle if the timer module is disabled.

1 14. A system for reducing idling time of a vehicle, comprising:
2 a timer module for timing a predetermined time period responsive to at least
3 one input indicating the vehicle has stopped for activating the timer and upon expiration of
4 the predetermined time period for generating a signal for stopping an engine of the vehicle;
5 override circuitry for providing an indication of an occupant in the vehicle;
6 and
7 a controller responsive to the indication from the override circuitry for
8 disabling the timer module.

1 15. The system of Claim 14, wherein the override circuitry further comprises at
2 least one of an infrared device, an imaging sensor, a radar sensor, a fingerprint scanner, a
3 retinal scanner, a weight sensor, a pressure switch, a video system, a palm print scanner, a
4 laser system, a Pulse On system, a motion detector, or a switch.

1 16. The system of Claim 14, further including:
2 circuitry for detecting an opening of a door of the vehicle; and
3 wherein said controller further enables said timer module responsive to
4 detection of opening of the door of the vehicle if the time module is disabled.

1 17. The system of Claim 14, wherein the override circuitry further provides a
2 second indicator that the vehicle is unoccupied.

1 18. The system of Claim 17, wherein the controller further enables the timer
2 module responsive to the second indicator if the timer module is disabled.